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Spooks

When the Central Intelligence Agency crept out of the shadows recently and publicly gave its pessimistic evaluation of the Soviet economy, the secret agency raised a minor storm of protest that it was turning itself into a ministry of propaganda. Not only did many experts throw cold water on the accuracy of the CIA's analysis, but, more importantly, there was wide challenge of the propriety of the spy agency meddling in foreign policy.

The incident was only the latest skirmish in a running battle between the CIA and that segment of the press, the public, and Congress concerned about the wide-ranging power of the agency and the self-defeating character of some of its escapades. In a recent article in *The Saturday Eve-*



Herblock in The Washington Post

"Psst! Want to
See Some Hot Statistics?"

ning Post, Senator Eugene McCarthy summed up in blunt and forceful language the case against CIA.

"Wrapped in its cloak of secrecy," wrote the Senator, "the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency modestly hints it has overthrown foreign governments, admits that it violates international law, and doesn't deny that one of its

exploits wreaked a summit conference. The CIA, in short, is making foreign policy, and, in so doing is assuming the roles of the President and the Congress. It has taken on the character of an invisible government answering only to itself."

"The director of the CIA," wrote Senator McCarthy, "is rated one of the half dozen most powerful men in Washington... with 14,000 employees, including specialists in intelligence analysis and espionage, U-2 pilots and assassins."

"This information center, however," the Senator continued, "has no business taking over the roles of the State Department, Defense Department, and Congress as well as carrying the nation to the edge of war."

McCarthy reaffirmed the growing demand for a "watchdog committee" in Congress to oversee and exercise some control over CIA's far-flung activities. But such legislation has been pending before Congress for a decade. So far the powerful lobby has successfully blocked all efforts.

Only constant exposure of the danger of this free-wheeling, "invisible government" within a government will rouse Congress and the public to bring the CIA under control. Senator McCarthy has made a significant contribution to what must be a continuing crusade to assure Congressional surveillance over the CIA.

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